

The Town of Riverhead Riverhead Water District

Water News



District Newsletter

Spring 2023

STAYING AHEAD OF THE REGULATOR CURVE

In this issue:

STAYING AHEAD OF THE
REGULATOR CURVE

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
CONTINUE

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN
DRINKING WATER?

WATER FACTS & FIGURES

WATER QUALITY REPORT

OTHER WATER CONSERVATION
TIPS

Yvette Aguiar - Town Supervisor

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Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

www.townofriverheadny.gov



Town Supervisor Yvette Aguiar

“Forever chemicals” are chemicals classified as Per- and Polyfluorinated compounds or “PFAS,” for short. PFAS are a category of manufactured chemicals, numbering in the thousands, which are widely used to make everyday products more resistant to stains, grease and water. PFAS are present in a variety of products, such as non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, carpets, fabrics, food packaging and firefighting foam. Because they also help to reduce friction, they are also used in a variety of industries including aerospace, automotive, building, construction, and electronics. PFAS tends to break down very slowly in the environment and can end up in water sources including those we rely on for our drinking water. Exposure is not only through our drinking water, but the foods we eat and the clothes we wear.

As a result, New York State has established a maximum contaminant level in drinking water for PFOS and PFOA, of 10 parts per trillion.

Recently, both the Federal EPA and New York State have proposed stricter regulations on these compounds as well as establishing new regulations on several additional PFA compounds.

I am proud to report the Riverhead Water District has always delivered water to its consumers that met or exceeded all regulations for these chemicals. There are, however, two wells located within Riverhead that are mildly impacted by these “forever chemicals” from which we obtain a portion of our drinking water. The Riverhead Water District has processes in place that help to remove these compounds from drinking water, at first through blending with water from other wells throughout Riverhead and by using a filtration system that helps remove these compounds in their entirety. In anticipation of future regulations, the District is planning to implement an additional filtration system and will continue to apply for grants to offset the costs of these needed capital improvements to the District.

The Riverhead Water District remains committed to providing clean and safe drinking water to all of our residents and strives to meet or exceed current and future regulations by staying ahead of the regulatory curve and by continually improving our District’s infrastructure.

Please feel free to contact the Riverhead Water District office at (631) 727-3205 with any questions concerning our water supply.



Yvette Aguiar
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead

***Riverhead Water District - Providing Water To The Community
For over 100 Years!***

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

In 2022, the District continued with the implementation of wellhead treatment at their Middle Road well field. When operable, the new filters will remove naturally occurring manganese as well as PFA compounds. It is anticipated that these systems will go online in the fall of 2023, if not sooner. Also in 2022, the District addressed some much-needed maintenance on two of the water storage tanks. The District's Northville ground storage tank was blasted and repainted both inside and out and work on the Route 58 elevated storage tank has already begun. This project is providing repairs and a long overdue facelift for the tank originally constructed in 1966.



WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

On a summer day, the Riverhead Water District provides almost 20 million gallons per day to the communities of Riverhead. That quantity of water is over 10 times what is required on a winter day. This huge increase can mostly be attributed to lawn irrigation. It is estimated that up to 80% of the water pumped on a hot summer day is used to irrigate our lawns. To meet this demand, the Water District must maintain several large wells just for the purpose of irrigation. The typical well operated by the District provides 1,000 gpm or 1.4 million gallons a day. As water use across the Town continues to increase, the District is forced to construct new supply wells at an estimated cost of \$5,000,000 per well. In response, starting in 2023 the District had to implement a new water rate structure to combat the ever-growing demand for irrigation. As a result, high irrigators will see an impact on their quarterly bills.

To reduce future costs, the District encourages all residents to conserve water in any way possible to reduce our summertime demands. If the problem continues to be ignored, adverse effects on our underlying aquifers will escalate resulting in higher water rates, forced water restrictions and/or otherwise expensive treatment solutions. The District does not want to discourage keeping properties clean and beautiful, thus if you continue to use irrigation, consider the following steps to reduce your footprint:

- Use of Smart Controllers on all systems including those with rain and soil monitors.
- If your lawn is exposed to full sun, consider irrigating when evaporation from the sun is at its lowest potential.
- Use drip irrigation in landscaped beds and keep beds mulched.
- Speak to an expert at your local nursery to determine what plants are best for your soil type, exposure and use native plants.
- Be aware of your system and avoid overspray on to driveways, roads and sidewalks.
- Turn off your system when raining or when rain is in forecast.

The District also encourages each resident adopt an ODD/EVEN water system rather than watering every day. If your address is an ODD number, water only on ODD number calendar days and vice-versa. Spreading out the demand goes a long way in ensuring sufficient water is available for emergency situations and to ensure a sufficient water supply for years to come. The Riverhead Water District encourages all residents to consider water conservation in their everyday lives and to remember that EVERY DROP COUNTS.

I want to be here for you.

If only our water infrastructure could talk to us. The corner hydrant might remind us that only tap water protects us against the threat of fire, and that the pipes below our streets need constant attention to keep life-saving water flowing at the right pressure, 24/7, without fail.

We are all stewards of the water infrastructure generations before handed down to us, and our water bills keep that system strong and reliable. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit www.townofriverheadny.gov

Only Tap Water Delivers



Presented in cooperation with  American Water Works Association



CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD

There have been many articles written discussing the potential of lead being in our drinking water. The Town and Riverhead Water District takes this issue very seriously and are taking steps to ensure the lowest possible exposure to lead from drinking water. Studies show that lead from many sources in the environment can cause health-related issues. Sources of lead can include gasoline, paint chips, soil and our drinking water.

The Water District routinely tests our supply wells for lead and has done so for over 30 years. Testing has determined that they do not contain lead. However, it is possible for lead to enter the water from interior plumbing lines and fixtures in your home or the service line between the water main in the street to your home. One exposure point is the corrosion of plumbing lines. The Water District provides water treatment in the form of polyphosphates and pH adjustment to reduce the corrosivity of the water and lessen the potential for lead leaking into the water. In addition, the District routinely conducts testing for lead at the tap to determine the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment. The District is happy to report that results have been positive for 30 years.

This testing is performed in a sampling of homes that have been identified as having the potential to have lead-containing plumbing. It is not all encompassing, thus if you have or suspect you have a water line that contains lead, we want to know. The District is developing an inventory to determine where these service lines exist. Should you know that your home has a lead service, please contact the District office at 631-727-3205. We also want to know that you do not have a lead service line.

Not sure? This table will help you identify your plumbing material, just identify where your service enters your home (typically in basement or crawl space):

The pipe material could be	When you scratch, the pipe color is....	Does the magnet stick?
Copper	...orange like a penny.	No
Galvanized Steel	...dull gray.	Yes
Lead	...shiny and silver	No
Plastic	...either black or blue	No



WATER FACTS & FIGURES

- Water Consumed in 2022 – 2.63 billion gallons
- Water Use Per Person – 200 gallons per day per person
- Peak Day Water Use – 20,047,000 gallons
- Peak Day Water Use per Person – 566 gallons per person
- Average Winter Use – 2.9 million gallons per day
- Average Summer Use – 13.3 million gallons per day

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2022. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2022. A copy of this report can also be found at the Town's website at www.townofriverheadny.gov.


The District is proud to report that our water meets or exceeds all Federal and State drinking water standards. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the Water District at 631.727.3205.


I'm more than just another tall drink of water.


If only our tap water could talk to us. It might remind us that tap water is more than just a healthy, refreshing drink. It also fights fires, supports our economy and provides us with the high quality of life we enjoy.

Our water bills pay to keep our community tap water safe, reliable and there for us — 24/7 without fail. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit www.townofriverheadny.gov

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Providing Water to Riverhead
for over 100 Years



Interested in a career in the Water Industry? The Town of Riverhead is seeking a qualified individual to serve in the FT position of Maintenance Mechanic II in the Water District. Responsibilities would include assisting in the day-to-day operations of the District and working to ensure a continued source of drinking water to the Town. A great industry to start a career with plenty of room for advancement. If interested, please visit the Town website at www.townofriverheadny.gov/employment.

Please be advised - Your water is safe to drink during this coronavirus crisis.

OTHER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Watering only every other day would go a long way in helping the Water District achieve its water conservation goals. There are many other ways every member of our community can save water everyday. Here are a few conservation tips that may help:

- Insulate water pipes to get hot water faster and reduce the need to run faucet longer.
- Many consumers are not awake when the sprinklers go on. Sprinkler systems should be periodically checked for broken heads and/or leaking pipings and system repairs should be made as soon as possible. One broken sprinkler head could waste up to 25,000 gallons of water over a 6 month irrigation season.
- Utilize drip irrigation in your gardens. Drip irrigation is not only more efficient, but saves up to 80% in water usage and can help reduce your water bill.



- Fix that leaking faucet. A leaking faucet or leaking toilet can amount to over 100 gallons per day. Multiply that by the hundreds of faucets that could be leaking on any given day and that adds up to a lot of wasted water!

- 90% - 95% of pool and spa water lost to evaporation can be saved by installing a pool cover.

- Every glass of water brought to your table in a restaurant requires another two glasses of water to wash and rinse the glass. Since nearly 70 million meals are served each day in US restaurants, we'd save more than 26 million gallons of water if only one person in four declined the complimentary glassful.

For more conservation tips, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

